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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 87<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## How To Fight Communism

### EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

**HON. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Tuesday, June 6, 1961

Mr. HUMPHREY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the RECORD an editorial published in the Chicago Sun-Times of April 9, 1961, entitled "How To Fight Communism."

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### How To Fight Communism

The arguments that have welled up in the debate about the John Birch Society are reminiscent of the arguments made during the heyday of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy. Now, as then, they show an appalling misconception by a frightening number of well-intentioned Americans about communism—and about the American system of free speech and opinion as well.

When Senator McCarthy was active, his supporters angrily answered criticism of his methods by saying: "McCarthy is fighting communism. Anyone who is against him helps the Communists."

The same theme runs through many of the letters we have received from readers in praise of the John Birch Society since the Sun-Times printed a series of articles on the history, goals and methods of the organization. (Up until noon Friday our letters count was 43 for the society, or critical of our articles, 92 against the society or in praise of the articles.)

The Birch Society was founded as a secret organization by Robert Welch, a former candy manufacturer, who once labeled President Eisenhower and other eminent Americans as tools or agents of communism. Welch believes that social security and the Federal income tax are Communist schemes to soften up America for Communist conquest.

Welch is entitled to hold these views and to preach them, if he wishes. He and his followers may, if they wish, hold the view that Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court should be impeached be-

cause of the Court's school desegregation decision, which Welch believes was brought about by Communists to foment civil war.

By the same American right to free speech and opinion, other Americans are entitled to disagree with Welch and to consider him and his followers as crackpots, without being subject to abuse, gossip, and community ostracism. These are precisely the methods and weapons used by Communists to impress their views on communities; in Red China, for example, brainwashing and ostracization are employed to force acceptance of communism.

Americans have a right to voice opinions critical of Welch and his associates without, in turn, being accused of being anti-anti-Communist, whatever that means.

Because the Sun-Times told the story of the Birch Society and its members, some of its sympathizers wrote in that we were discrediting other good anti-Communist organizations, such as the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus, etc. This is manifest nonsense. The Birch Society is discredited in the minds of its critics because it pursues the methods used by Communists themselves. Moreover, as Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said last week, the Birch Society is making no contribution in the fight against communism and is, in fact, a hindrance in the fight.

And how, the Birchists argue, should the Communists be fought?

A good answer for that question will be given in Chicago starting tomorrow when some of the Nation's most important industrialists, educators, military, and professional men meet here to conduct the Seventh Annual Military Industrial-Educational Conference of the Institute for American Strategy. They will discuss and exchange ideas on the most fundamental step in fighting communism: Teaching what communism is—and isn't—and what democracy is.

Americans can't fight communism if they don't know what it is or what democracy is. There is an ignorance on those subjects in the United States that is appalling. That ignorance is reflected in support for Welch.

The conference to be held tomorrow at the Hotel Sherman will tackle the problem of dispelling ignorance by improving methods of teaching about communism and democracy at the high school level.

This is the same objective recently set forth by the American Bar Association. Some of the cooperating agencies of the conference to be held in the Hotel Sherman are

the American Legion, Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, Loyola, De Paul, and Notre Dame Universities, the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, Armour Research Foundation, and the Armed Forces.

When we say that this organization is taking an effective and important attitude toward fighting communism—as distinguished from an organization such as the Birch Society—we have in mind some of its basic tenets. Here in the words of Dean John H. Fischer, Teacher's College, Columbia University, a member of the institute's educational advisory committee, are some appropriate observations:

"There are Americans, whose attitude toward communism is under all circumstances to avoid it. To follow such a policy in schools would make selective ignorance a goal of education.

"A somewhat more aggressive approach, rooted in fear rather than hope, sees communism as a menace to the unwary and would counter the danger by teaching Americans to hate it. Those who espouse this line are unwilling to trust students ever to reach reliable value judgments through the objective study of facts and principles involved. These people prefer to teach for the specific purpose of inducing a predetermined negative emotional response.

"The unfortunate practice of using the word 'Communist' as a political epithet will not be eliminated unless it is recognized and attacked through education. One of the outcomes of our teaching should be the development of an awareness on the part of students that a person is not to be labeled a Communist merely because his views on racial segregation may be somewhat more liberal than his Senator's, or because he sees merit in the TVA. The silly nonsense that calls an experimental school report card in a primary school a machination of the Kremlin should be exposed for what it is. In order to understand the actual threat of communism, Americans must learn to distinguish between the Leninist and the liberal, between what is communistic and the nonconforming."

This is a primary lesson not only on communism but democracy. To be effective, this lesson must be learned and believed. Members of the Birch Society who do learn it, we expect, will change their procedures or resign and join up with an organization such as the Institute for American Strategy, which is helping, not hindering, the fight against communism.

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